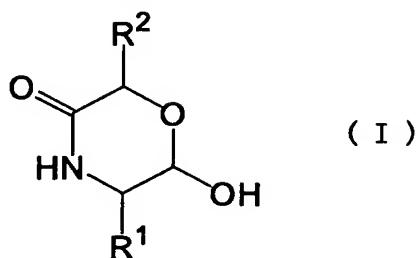


Claims

1. A compound represented by the formula (I)

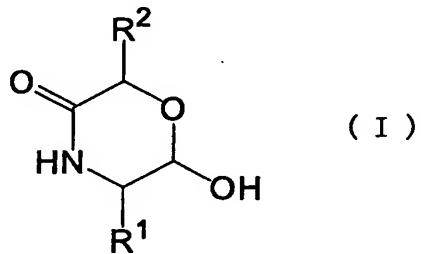


wherein R¹ and R² are each a lower alkyl group optionally
5 having substituents, or a salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R² is a lower alkyl group substituted by an aromatic hydrocarbon group, or a salt thereof.

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3. A compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl group optionally having
substituents, R² is a lower alkyl group, or a salt thereof.

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4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R² is a lower alkyl group having 3 or 4 carbon atoms, or a salt thereof.

- 20 5. The compound of claim 4, wherein the lower alkyl group is isopropyl or isobutyl, or a salt thereof.

6. The compound of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl group having substituent(s), or a salt thereof.

- 25 7. The compound of claim 6, wherein the substituent(s) that the lower alkyl group has is an aromatic hydrocarbon group

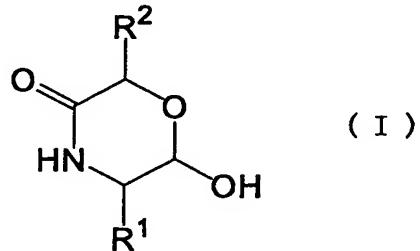
optionally having substituents, or a salt thereof.

8. The compound of claim 7, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon group is an aromatic hydrocarbon group substituted by a group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a cyclohexylmethoxy group, a halogen atom and a phenyl group.

9. The compound of claim 7 or 8, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon group is a phenyl group or 2-naphthyl group.

10. (2S,5S)-5-Benzyl-6-hydroxy-2-(2-methylpropyl)-3-morpholinone.

15 11. A medicine comprising a compound represented by the formula (I)



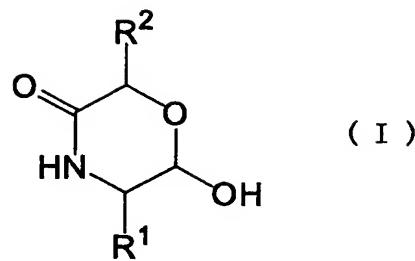
wherein R¹ and R² are each a lower alkyl group optionally having substituents, or a salt thereof.

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12. The medicine of claim 11, which is a calpain inhibitor.

13. The medicine of claim 12, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of a disease in which calpain is involved.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound represented by the formula (I)

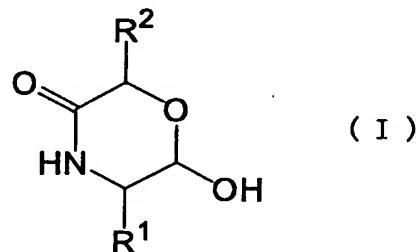


wherein R¹ and R² are each a lower alkyl group optionally having substituents, or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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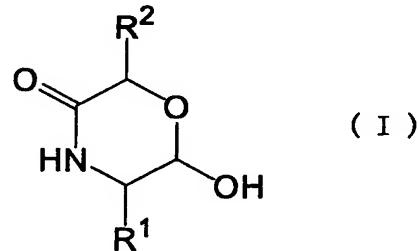
15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, which is a calpain inhibitor.

16. A method for treating a disease in which calpain is involved, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R¹ and R² are each a lower alkyl group optionally having substituents, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need of 15 the treatment.

17. Use of a compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R¹ and R² are each a lower alkyl group optionally 20 having substituents, or a salt thereof, as a calpain inhibitor.